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LABOR LEGISLATION

FRANKFURTER, FELIX and GOLDMARK, JOSEPHINE. *Oregon Minimum Wage Cases: Brief for Defendants in Error upon Re-argument*. Pp. 783. New York: National Consumers' League, 1917.

The brief for the State in the Oregon Minimum Wage Case recently before the Federal Supreme Court has been reprinted by the National Consumers' League for free distribution. The State upheld the constitutionality of the Oregon Act, and from this decision an appeal has been taken by the employer, Frank C. Stettler, and his employe, Elmira Simpson, on two main grounds, viz.: that the act denies equal protection and violates the due process clause of the fourteenth Amendment. The brief for the State presents legal and social arguments upholding the law. These are arranged to show that the police power of the State amply suffices to protect the people from the dangers arising through overwork or through malnutrition caused by under-payment. The brief also contains opinions of experts and statistical tables with other evidence showing the bad effect of excessively low wages on morals, on efficiency of the workman and on the public welfare. The argument is broadly conceived and is an admirable epitome of the whole social viewpoint in labor legislation.

Justice Brandeis, who had assisted in the preparation of the brief before his appointment to the bench, did not participate in the decision, the remaining eight justices were equally divided for and against the appeal. As the State court had upheld the act, an equal division on the appeal allows the State decision to stand, so that the minimum wage law is in effect declared constitutional.

J. T. Y.

JONES, F. ROBERTSON (Ed. by). *Workmen's Compensation Laws of the States and Territories of the United States*. Price, single copies, 25 cents; complete set of 35 pamphlets, \$5.00. New York: Workmen's Compensation Publicity Bureau, 1917.

This series is an extremely convenient form of issue for the compensation acts. Each act is published with its amendments, accompanied by a complete digest with references to sections and clauses. The cover of each has a distinctive color for ready selection. The type is small but clear. The Publicity Bureau has performed a public service in issuing this convenient and well-arranged series.

LAUCK, W. JETT and SYDENSTRICKER, EDGAR. *Conditions of Labor in American Industries*. Pp. xi, 403. Price, \$1.75. New York: Funk and Wagnalls Company, 1917.

The American public is probably less informed on the real facts of labor conditions than any other great people. We speak glibly of wage rates and hours of labor without knowing whether the rates and hours mentioned apply to 1 or 100 per cent of the workers. We cite instances of welfare work by employers but we do not know how many people are affected by modern, up-to-